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DAREDEVIL
TREE OF KNOWLEDGE 1 OF 5
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McDANIEL

KAREN PAGE CAN'T BELIEVE HER EYES, SO SHE HAS TO TRUST HER FINGERS.

WHEN YOU LOVE A BLIND MAN, YOU COME TO KNOW THE MAGIC OF THE OTHER SENSES.

TOUCHING FEATURES SHE KNEW INTIMATELY, KAREN CAN'T AVOID THAT THEY MATCH THOSE OF MATT MURDOCK.

KAREN CAN'T ESCAPE THAT HER FRIEND AND LOVER IS LAID OUT IN A COFFIN.

OH, FOGGY...

IT'LL--IT'LL BE OKAY, KAREN... WON'T IT?

SENSATIONALIST REPORTING HAD IMPLIED THE LAWYER MURDOCK WAS ALSO THE VIGILANTE DAREDEVIL.

THE THEORY WAS THAT SOME THUG A WITH A GRUDGE AGAINST THE MASK HAD TAKEN IT OUT ON THE MAN.

ATTORNEY FRANKLIN "FOGGY" NELSON CALLS IN MARKERS FROM FRIENDS IN OFFICIAL PLACES.

DETAILS OF THE FUNERAL ARE KEPT QUIET TO AVOID MORE OF A MEDIA CIRCUS.

BUT WORD STILL GETS OUT...

...ENOUGH SO THAT SOME OF THOSE MATT TOUCHED REACH OUT TO TOUCH BACK.

SOMETIMES PARTNERS LIKE PETER PARKER, A.K.A. THE FRIENDLY NEIGHBORHOOD SPIDER-MAN.

WHO IS HE AGAIN, TIGER?

OLD FLAMES LIKE NATALIA ROMANOVA, THE ESPIONAGE AGENT KNOWN AS THE BLACK WIDOW.

JUST SOMEONE I'D HANG AROUND WITH NOW AND THEN, MJ.

A GOOD GUY... EVEN IF HE DID LIKE TO RAISE HECK AND TAKE CHANCES...

ANOTHER CHAMPION OF JUSTICE LIKE STEVE ROGERS, THE SUPER-SOLDIER CALLED CAPTAIN AMERICA.

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AND THEY ALL MAKE THEIR WAY HERE FOR THE SAME, SOLEMN REASON.
WE GATHER TO PAY OUR LAST RESPECTS TO MATTHEW MICHAEL MURDOCK...
KICKING OFF THE 31ST YEAR OF THE MAN WITHOUT FEAR!
by
D.G. CHICHESTER & SCOTT McDANIEL
HECTOR COLLAZO inker
BILL OAKLEY letterer
MAX SCHEELE colorist
RALPH MACCHIO editor
TOM DEFALCO chief
REST IN PEACE
"An unholy alliance of the technical world with the underground of... street level anarchy."
--Bruce Sterling, describing the term "cyberpunk"
TREE of KNOWLEDGE ~ part one

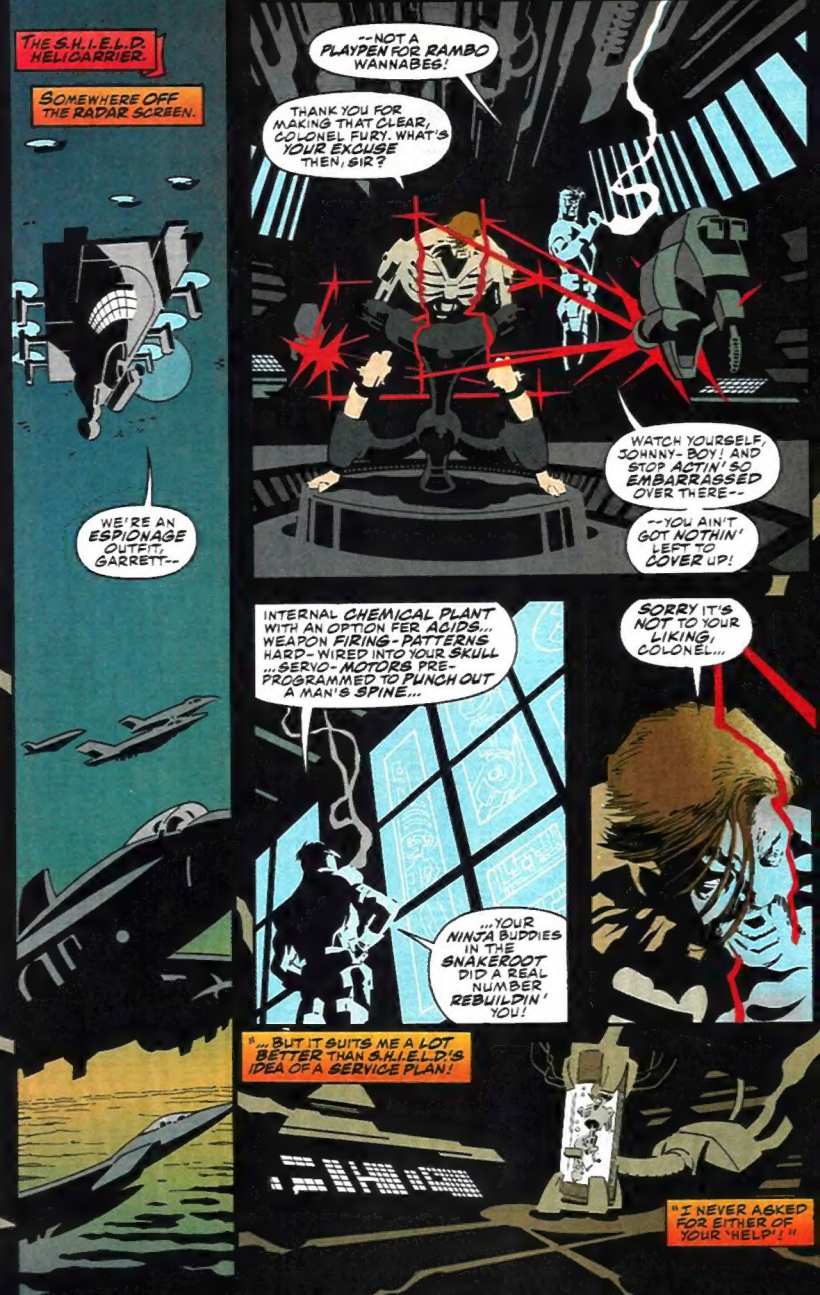
TAPE IS ROLLIN', BOBBY!
ROBERT DENNEHY, WFET NEWS! WE TRACK DOWN THE NEWS THAT TRIES TO RUN AWAY!
AT THE GRAVE OF MATT MURDOCK, WHERE THE FIRST SHOVELFULS OF DIRT BEGIN TO BURY DAREDEVIL'S SECRETS!
AMONG THE MOURNERS IS JOHNNY STORM, THE FANTASTIC FOUR'S HUMAN TORCH!
OR JUST ANOTHER EXAMPLE OF YOU COSTUMED TYPES STICKING TOGETHER AGAINST THE REST OF US?
MURDOCK DEFENDED YOU IN COURT, STORM, WHEN YOU COOKED HALF OF EMPIRE STATE UNIVERSITY! JUSTICE FOR ALL?
WANT A SOUNDBITE, PAL?
FWOOSH!
CHEW ON THIS!
WE'RE HERE TO HONOR THE MAN, NOT YOUR RATINGS!
WATCH YOURSELF HOTHEAD! THAT'S PRIVATE PROPERTY YOU JUST MICROWAVED, AND I GOT WITNESSES ALL AROUND!
YEAH, I'M SURE YOU'LL FIND EVERYONE HERE REAL COOPERATIVE.
JUST WHAT THE FIRST AMENDMENT NEEDS... SYMPATHETIC BLINDNESS!
C'MON, JOEY! HOW'S YOUR HAND?
S-S-STILL THERE... I TH-THINK.
THERE'S KAREN, JIM... OVER THERE! AWW... SHE STILL LOOKS GOOD, HUH? C'MON... LET'S CATCH UP ON OLD TIMES!
OH. THE GRIEF THING... I HEAR YOU, BROTHER!
DON'T WORRY, WE'LL ALL BE BACK IN BUSINESS AGAIN SOON ENOUGH...
UH... A LITTLE LATER, ARTIE. MAYBE NOW'S NOT SUCH A GOOD TIME.

WORD GETS OUT.
AND THOSE MATT TOUCHED REACH OUT TO TOUCH BACK.
WILSON FISK.
ONCE UPON TOO-LONG-A-TIME, HE WAS KINGPIN OF ALL THE CRIME IN THE CITY OF NEW YORK.
DAREDEVIL DETHRONED HIM.
PTOOO!
ROT SLOWLY.

HART ISLAND, JUST OFF THE COAST OF THE NORTHEAST BRONX. POPULATION: 700,000.
ALL DEAD.
MASS GRAVES HOLD THE COUNTLESS BOXES.
UNKNOWN DRIFTERS FOUND DEAD IN THE STREET. JOHN DOE VICTIMS OF VIOLENCE.
FORGOTTEN REMAINS OF HUMAN LIVES.
BUT ONE BOX IS PULLED ASIDE TO BE REMEMBERED.
MATT MURDOCK MISSED HIS OWN FUNERAL SO EDDIE PASSIM WOULDN'T BE BURIED IN AN UNMARKED GRAVE.
A BOYHOOD ACT OF HEROISM TOOK MATT'S SIGHT, BUT HYPED HIS OTHER SENSES IN RETURN.
THROWN INTO THAT BARGAIN WAS A CRUDE "RADAR" OF SHAPE AND PLACE.

MURDOCK "SEES" A LONG RECTANGLE. SMELLS OOZING SAP. FEELS COARSE, UNFINISHED WOOD.
IT'D BE EASY TO TAKE THE WORLD ON JUST THE SURFACE ALONE.
BUT MATT MURDOCK'S BETTER KNOWN FOR GOING IT HARD.
GOING PAST THE CRUDE PINE BOX, GOING THE EXTRA MILE.
MAKING THE HUMAN CONNECTION WITH WHO THE MAN INSIDE ONCE WAS.
THIRTY YEARS AGO, EDDIE PASSIM WAS YOUNG AND IN LOVE.
THEN, THERESA WAS MURDERED TO HELP CREATE A DEFENSE DEPARTMENT SUPER-VIRUS CALLED "ABOUT FACE."
THIRTY YEARS LATER, AND EDDIE WAS INSANE AND ON THE RUN.
NOW, EDDIE'S SECRETS ABOUT THE VIRUS MADE HIM A TARGET.

FIGHTING TO KEEP VIRUS-HUNTERS FROM TEARING APART NEW YORK, DAREDEVIL NEVER SAW HEADLINE-HUNTERS TEARING HIM DOWN.
"MATT MURDOCK IS DAREDEVIL?" THE PAPERS READ, AND THE QUESTION ALONE MEANT RISK FOR EVERYONE AROUND THE MAN.
THERE WOULD ALWAYS BE A CRAZY LOOKING TO PROVE SOMETHING BY GUNNING FOR MURDOCK.
THERE WOULD ALWAYS BE THE DANGER OF AN INNOCENT GETTING HURT.
A DOPPELGANGER NAMED HELL-SPAWN PROVIDED THE SOLUTION. FULLY TRANSFORMED TO HUMAN FORM, IT PASSED FOR MURDOCK...
...LAYING TO REST LAWYER AND THREAT IN THE SAME GRAVE.
EDDIE FOUND HIS REST, TOO...
SHWMF!
...FINALLY SETTLING UP WITH HIS LOVER'S KILLER.
THRNNK!
HYPERSENSITIVE FINGERS TRACE THE LETTERS, "READING" THE WORDS.
YOU AND ME BOTH...


THE S.H.I.E.L.D. HELICARRIER.
SOMEWHERE OFF THE RADAR SCREEN.
WE'RE AN ESPIONAGE OUTFIT, GARRETT--
--NOT A PLAYPEN FOR RAMBO WANNABES!
THANK YOU FOR MAKING THAT CLEAR, COLONEL FURY. WHAT'S YOUR EXCUSE THEN, SIR?
WATCH YOURSELF, JOHNNY-BOY! AND STOP ACTIN' SO EMBARRASSED OVER THERE--
--YOU AIN'T GOT NOTHIN' LEFT TO COVER UP!
INTERNAL CHEMICAL PLANT WITH AN OPTION FER ACIDS... WEAPON FIRING-PATTERNS HARD-WIRED INTO YOUR SKULL ...SERVO-MOTORS PRE-PROGRAMMED TO PUNCH OUT A MAN'S SPINE...
SORRY IT'S NOT TO YOUR LIKING, COLONEL...
...YOUR NINJA BUDDIES IN THE SNAKEROOT DID A REAL NUMBER REBUILDIN' YOU!
"... BUT IT SUITS ME A LOT BETTER THAN S.H.I.E.L.D.'S IDEA OF A SERVICE PLAN!
"I NEVER ASKED FOR EITHER OF YOUR 'HELP'!"

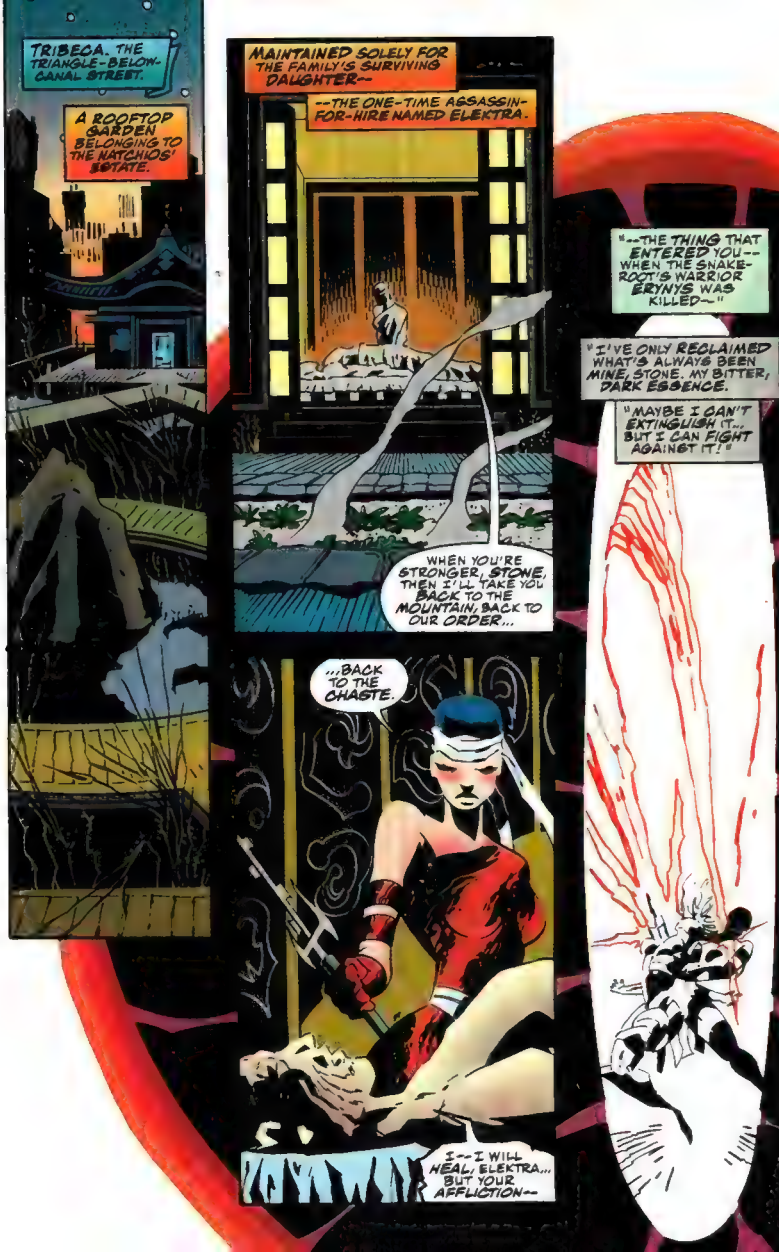
YOU'RE A ROGUE ELEMENT, GARRETT! JUST THIS SIDE OF CERTIFIABLE SOCIOPATH!
AND YOU'RE A ONE-EYED CANCER RISK LEFT OVER FROM WORLD WAR II! SIR.
I GOT A DISK FULL OF EXPERTS SAY PUT YOU AWAY, JOHN-JOHN...
HE'S ON TV WEARIN' MEDALS AND SETTIN' MOVIE DEALS! I'M IN THE MUD WEARIN' A CHEAP SUIT, ABOUT TO GET BURIED UNDER THE SALT FLATS!
YOU'RE A COVERT, MANIPULATIVE S.O.B., FURY... YOU CAN PULL THE STRINGS TO MAKE IT LIKE I NEVER EXISTED!
OR LOOK ME IN THE EYE AND GIVE ME SOME DUE FOR WHAT I DID ACCOMPLISH FOR THIS COUNTRY, NO MATTER HOW I GOT IT DONE!
'CAUSE I PLAYED FAST AND LOOSE WITH THE RULES? HOW'S THAT MAKE ME DIFFERENT THAN AN OLLIE NORTH?

MANHATTAN
CORNER OF 32ND AND 3RD
WOLFY, MAN, THIS IS IT! THE CON OF THE CENTURY! THE BANK NEXT DOOR CLOSES ITS DOORS--
THANK YOU, SAVINGS & LOAN SCANDAL!
--AND WE SLIP OUR BOGUS CASH MACHINE IN WHEN THEY PULL THEIRS OUT!
IT WAS INSPIRED, VIC! ALL THEM MARKS STICKIN' THEIR CARDS IN, GETTIN' NOTHIN' BACK BUT AN APOLOGY!
"NOTHIN' WORKS IN NEW YORK ANYWAY, SO WHAT'S ONE MORE GRIEF, RIGHT? SO SWEET, MAKE ME WANNA CRY!
hmmf.
MOTHERLESS PIECE O'--
"MAKE THEM CRY, TOO, WHEN THEY FIND OUT WE RECORDED THEIR I.D. NUMBERS OFF THEIR CARDS..."
OH. WHAT DO I--? OH.
KLIK
...MEANIN' WE SCORE ON THEIR ACCOUNTS AT A REAL MACHINE! "HOW CAN I HELP YOU TODAY?" WELL, MR. ATM...
LET US HAVE EVERY RED CENT BELONGIN' TO EVERY SUCKER STUPID ENOUGH TO FALL FOR THIS SCAM!
VIC!
I'M SORRY--I'M UNABLE TO COMPLETE THAT TRANSACTION AT THIS TIME!
SKRAAASH!

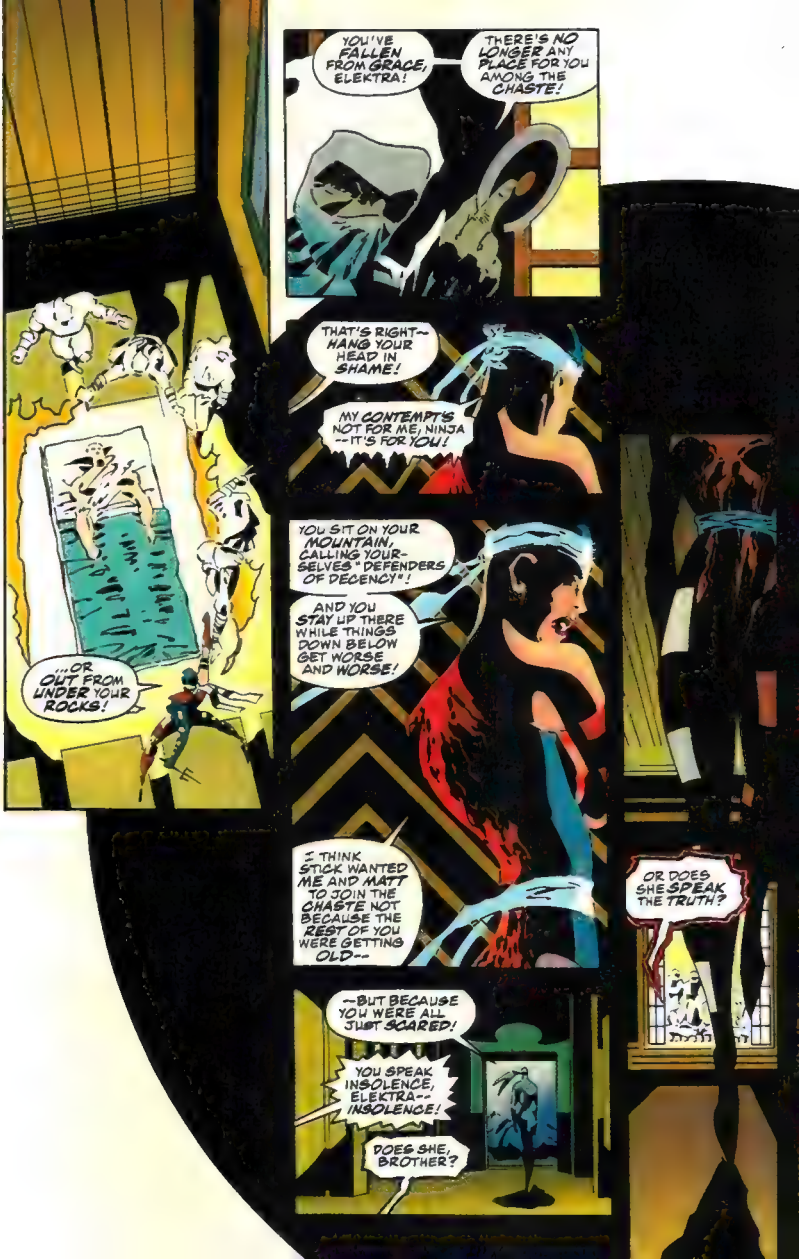
THAK!
IS THERE SOMETHING ELSE I CAN HELP YOU WITH?
BLAM!
BLAM!
I NEVER DID TRUST THESE MACHINES!
FWKAAAM!!
THE PEOPLE YOU WERE LOOKING TO RIP OFF DID TRUST THEM--TRUST YOU WERE LOOKING TO ABUSE!
SQUEEZING BEHIND THAT SERVICE PANEL AND WAITING FOR YOU TWO WAS A TIGHT FIT!
WORTH IT FOR THE LOOK ON YOUR FACE RIGHT NOW!
KLNKANK!

CAREFUL WITH YOUR MASCULINITY, THERE!
THE GUN FEELS THICK AND UGLY.
BUT HE NEEDS IT TO BREAK THE CONNECTION BETWEEN THE "OLD" DAREDEVIL AND THE "NEW."
TO START A REPUTATION THAT WILL STOP COLD THOSE THINKING MATT MURDOCK MIGHT STILL BE UNDER THE MASK.
I CAN PLAY WITH THESE KUNG FU TOYS, TOO!
HEY! H-HORNHEAD I ALWAYS HEARD OF N-NEVER USED A PIECE!
TIMES CHANGE... PEOPLE, TOO. NOT YOU, THOUGH, WOLFY, YOU'LL ALWAYS BE A WORTHLESS CON--
--NOWHERE NEAR SMART ENOUGH TO ENGINEER THE CIRCUIT BOARDS TO MAKE THIS HI-TECH STING WORK!
WHO'S THE NEXT STEP DOWN THE LOWLIFE LADDER?
YOU WANT KNOWBOT?! YOU CAN HAVE HIM!

ME, I'LL JUST TAKE A PIECE O' YOU, DAREDEVIL--
--OR WHOEVER YOU ARE!
TWOK!
CATCH!
GIMME THAT!
KCHING!
CONNECTORS SNAP TOGETHER.
GOT YOU NOW, YOU SONUVA--
COLLAPSIBLE SECTIONS EXTEND OUT.
SNRAAPK!
DOESN'T PAY TO BE GREEDY!
THAT'S A LESSON THIS "KNOWBOT'S" YET TO LEARN!
AND I CAN'T WAIT TO TEACH IT TO HIM...


TRIBECA. THE TRIANGLE-BELOW-CANAL STREET.
A ROOFTOP GARDEN BELONGING TO THE HATCHIOS' ESTATE.
MAINTAINED SOLELY FOR THE FAMILY'S SURVIVING DAUGHTER--
--THE ONE-TIME ASSASSIN-FOR-HIRE NAMED ELEKTRA.
WHEN YOU'RE STRONGER, STONE, THEN I'LL TAKE YOU BACK TO THE MOUNTAIN, BACK TO OUR ORDER...
...BACK TO THE CHASTE.
I--I WILL HEAL ELEKTRA... BUT YOUR AFFLICTION--
"--THE THING THAT ENTERED YOU--WHEN THE SNAKE-ROOT'S WARRIOR ERYNYS WAS KILLED--"
"I'VE ONLY RECLAIMED WHAT'S ALWAYS BEEN MINE, STONE. MY BITTER, DARK ESSENCE.
"MAYBE I CAN'T EXTINGUISH IT... BUT I CAN FIGHT AGAINST IT!"

MORE LIKELY YOU'LL GIVE INTO IT, WOMAN!
FLAME?!
FWRSH!
YOU'D BEEN CLEANSED--
THWIIT!
--YOU HAD YOUR CHANCE AT PURITY!
KTING!
KTANG!
STAR!
NOW LOOK AT YOURSELF--WEARING YOUR TAINT SO PROUDLY!
SHRIP!
ENOUGH, CLAW!
I KNOW IT'S AGAINST YOUR NATURE, WARRIORS, BUT TIME TO COME OUT OF THE SHADOWS...
HYRUUK
ENOUGH FROM ALL OF YOU!


YOU'VE FALLEN FROM GRACE, ELEKTRA!
THERE'S NO LONGER ANY PLACE FOR YOU AMONG THE CHASTE!
THAT'S RIGHT-- HANG YOUR HEAD IN SHAME!
MY CONTEMPT'S NOT FOR ME, NINJA --IT'S FOR YOU!
YOU SIT ON YOUR MOUNTAIN, CALLING YOURSELVES "DEFENDERS OF DECENCY"!
AND YOU STAY UP THERE WHILE THINGS DOWN BELOW GET WORSE AND WORSE!
...OR OUT FROM UNDER YOUR ROCKS!
I THINK STICK WANTED ME AND MATT TO JOIN THE CHASTE NOT BECAUSE THE REST OF YOU WERE GETTING OLD--
--BUT BECAUSE YOU WERE ALL JUST SCARED!
YOU SPEAK INSOLENCE, ELEKTRA-- INSOLENCE!
DOES SHE, BROTHER?
OR DOES SHE SPEAK THE TRUTH?

A WAREHOUSE LOFT.
NORMAN AVENUE, GREENPOINT, BROOKLYN
WHO NEEDS TO WAIT FOR THE FUTURE? VIRTUAL REALITY IS HERE AND NOW!
ALL IT TAKES IS SMARTS WITH A SILICON CHIP, AND CHARGE CARDS TO RADIO SHACK AND HOME DEPOT!
/MPRESSIVE, AIN'T I, SINCLAIR? SINC_AIR?
EARTH TO SINCLAIR SPECTRUM?
SINCE WHEN ARE YOU FROM EARTH KNOWBOT?
AND WHAT'S THE DEAL WITH THIS "KILOBYTE" BRUISER?
KILL-O-BYTE
THANKS. I'LL BEAR THAT IN MIND FOR THE FUTURE.
37 HOURS STRAIGHT SITTING THERE HACKING, PIGGING ON GOD KNOWS WHAT KIND OF JUNK FOOD--
--AND I DON'T EVEN WANNA THINK WHAT YOU'VE BEEN USING FOR A BATHROOM!
THIS ISN'T HEAVIER THAN SELLING BLACK BOXES TO ATM SCAM ARTISTS, KNOWBOT--
--AND WHEN I SAY "HEAVY," I'M NOT TALKING THAT BUCKET OF KFC EXTRA CRISPY YOU INHALED!
WATCH YOURSELF, SINCLAIR--YOU'RE GONNA ANSWER FOR THOSE KINDA INSULTS!

I'LL EXPECT A CALL FROM THE "TWINKIE-EATING COMPUTER GEEK ANTI-DEFAMATION LEAGUE"! NOW GIVE!
KILOBYTE'S A FAVOR FROM MY NEW CLIENTS! WATCHING OUT FOR ME WHILE I DO A LITTLE TELE-COMMUNICATIONS JUGGLING!
SORT OF DECLASSIFYING GOVERNMENT INFORMATION! POWER TO THE PEOPLE... THE ONES PAYING ME MONEY, ANYWAY!
SNOOPING IN SOME PHONE COMPANY COMPUTER FOR A FEW LAUGHS IS ONE THING, CHIPHEAD--
--YOU CROSS THE FEDS, AND IT'S A WHOLE 'NOTHER WORLD'A TROUBLE DOWN ON YOUR HEAD!
KRAAAASH!
THERE'S NO SOUND UNTIL THE SOLDIER WANTS THEM TO HEAR HIM.
A SECOND WORLD WAR NORTH OF COVERT TRAINING TAUGHT HIM THAT AND MUCH MORE.
YOUR DAY-AND-A-HALF OF COMPUTER INTRUSION PROMPTED THE JUSTICE DEPARTMENT TO ASK ME TO LOOK INTO THE MATTER.
I ADVISE YOU ALL TO TURN YOURSELVES OVER TO THE DUE PROCESS OF THE LAW.
LAW I KNOW'S THE LAW! A PHYSICS...
SHUT IT DOWN, KNOWBOT-- SHUT IT DOWN NOW!
SKRAAK!

...THE ONE SAYING ALL THAT CHAIN MAIL YOU'RE WEARIN' MAKES A GREAT CONDUCTOR!
TZRAAK!
AN EXPERIMENTAL SERUM IS WHAT ORIGINALLY PRIMED THE SOLDIER'S PHYSIQUE TO NEAR-PERFECTION.
THAT SERUM NOW ACTS AS A SLOW POISON, RAVAGING HIS BODY--
--BUT NOT HIS RESOLVE.
IF THAT'S HOW YOU WANT IT...
DON'T MAKE ME SORRY I EVER TAUGHT YOU THIS STUFF IN THE FIRST PLACE, KNOW-BOT! WE'VE GOT TO GET OUT OF HERE!
LEAVE ME ALONE! I'M ALMOST THERE, I ALMOST GOT IT!
GOOD THROW--
--GOOD FOR NOTHING!
KRTAM!
ALL DEPENDS ON WHERE YOU'RE STANDING!

FILE TRANSFER COMPLETE! POWER HACKER SCORES!
HEY! W-WHAT ARE YOU--!
YOU JUST CUT THE OPTIONS DOWN TO ONE!
TRZZKAAM!
YOU CAN'T HAVE HIM...
I THOUGHT I'D ALREADY MADE THINGS CLEAR...
J-JUST WATCHING OUT FOR YOU, KN-KNOWBOT--
--WATCHING THAT YOU D-DON'T LET ON 'BOUT YOUR "CLIENT"!
NO!
KN-KNOWBOT...? OH, YOU STUPID SAP...
...I'LL MISS YOU, KNOWBOT. I WILL.
TIME TO LOG MY BACKSIDE OUTTA HERE...
THE SOLDIER SHAKES WITH RAGE AND FRUSTRATION. HE CURSES A TECHNOLOGY THAT DIDN'T EVEN EXIST WHEN HE WAS BORN.
CONDEMNING HIMSELF FOR NOT APPRECIATING ITS DANGER.
VOWING TO SEE THOSE BEHIND BOTH SENSELESS DEATHS PAY FOR THEIR CRIMES...

IN THE QUEENS MUSEUM OF ART...
WITH A TWO-LEGGED BEAST NAMED BARON WOLFGANG VON STRUCKER.
THE GREAT BUILDER ROBERT MOSES HAD THIS PANORAMA OF NEW YORK CITY CONSTRUCTED.
WE USE IT TO ILLUSTRATE A CACOPHONY OF DESTRUCTION!
REJUVENATING MY TERRORIST CABAL HYDRA HAS PROVED SUCCESSFUL IN ALL WAYS BUT PERCEPTION!
WE ARE STILL SEEN AS A LESSER POWER, CANNON FODDER FOR THE "HEROES" OF ORDER TO EXERCISE THEIR PROWESS!
KRTOOM!
KRTAAM!
YOU WILL CHANGE ALL THAT, MY VANGUARD OF ANARCHY!
THE FUTURE WE BUILD IS THE DARK SIDE OF UTOPIA--THE DYSTOPIA!

THE INFORMATION HIGHWAY IS THE ROAD TO THAT TOMORROW.
AND TOMORROW BELONGS TO SYSTEM CRASH...
SPECIAL THANKS TO CARL POTTS.
NEXT: "SYSTEM ERROR"

RALPH MACCHIO–Editor PAT GARRAHY–Asst. Editor

Send all replies to: DAREDEVIL/REDLINES, c/o Marvel Comics, 387 Park Ave. South, New York, NY 10016. (We will withhold all addresses by request.)

Dear Ralph and Pat,

To be honest, I haven't been collecting DAREDEVIL since John Romita Jr. packed his bags and shipped off for further adventures elsewhere. Ann Nocenti was another one who made my heart stop beating when she left. Not to sound full of myself, but DAREDEVIL has not been the same since... until now. When the "Fall From Grace" storyline hit the shelves I immediately picked them up. Scott McDaniel's artwork is the best I have seen on DAREDEVIL yet. Scott's dark style actually sends shivers down my spine.

Even my friends who teased me for buying DAREDEVIL when he was just getting popular admitted that Scott McDaniel's artwork was spawning more than just an image. The best of luck to you, and I cannot wait to see what happens to DD after the conclusion to "Fall From Grace."

Sincerely,
Tanner Rush
8066 Old Emigrant Trail W.
Mountain Ranch, CA 95246

Must feel sort of overwhelmed then, Tanner, what with "Fall From Grace" and the Frank Miller/John Romita Jr. MAN WITHOUT FEAR limited series going on simultaneously! DD popular again? That would mean he dropped out of popularity for a while--perish the thought!

Dear Daring Creators,

I believe congratulations are in order! I'm certain that your rather extensive new take on Daredevil has brought a great deal of negative mail to your doorstep, but I for one have got to express my appreciation for what has been an outstanding effort from all those involved.

Although "Fall From Grace" has not yet been completed as I write this, the total effort that goes into every issue from the cover to the final panel on the last page is obvious. You gentleman have managed to elevate your game to heights that many readers probably never dreamed of. By throwing everything but the kitchen sink at this title, with new co-stars, villains, uniforms, and a fantastic new art style, you've really turned this title around.

Many fans might not have agreed, but this book has needed a shake-up for a long time. While people go on spouting about history and tradition, the book had grown pretty stale. Change and creative new approaches could only be a positive for some of these older titles. I've been reading DAREDEVIL off and on again for twenty-five years, and I'm all for this new approach. After all, how traditional was it to have a blind superhero back in 1963 when DD first showed up? This retooling of the character should make this a fresh and interesting book for years!

My only reservation about the current storyline is that Elektra being involved was not necessary. Any team with as much talent as you guys have could make an intriguing new protagonist for Daredevil with ease. I feel that you guys are shocked by how well things have turned out yourselves, and that Elektra coming back as a part of this story was because you suffered from a lack of confidence. What the heck, though, I'm having much too much fun to complain!

Now I've just got to find room for these three issues in my file cabinet.

Thanks.
Andrew Glaess
(Address withheld by request)

Look back to issue #314 of DAREDEVIL. Pages 2 & 3. It was at that point in time we decided Elektra was going to reappear in the pages of issue #325--just in time for DD's 30th! How's that for foreshadowing!?!

Dear Redlines,

At long last this publication has been showing signs of improvement with its latest series of stories. While D.G. Chichester is certainly a competent writer, the person I would really like to praise is Scott McDaniel. This guy has been doing an outstanding job with the overall visual appearance of the book. His artistic sensibility is just what the book needs to give it the credibility it deserves. I have always felt that Frank Miller brought to this book a standard that hasn't been lived up to. Now, I think that time has come to pass (nearly a decade) and we can all be happy that it has. This "Fall From Grace" series has a definite growth to it. It really can't be explained in any other way except it just keeps getting better and better. Especially where McDaniel is concerned. His growth on this series is obvious. Just look at the covers. His manipulation of technique and graphic design elements are both something I would like to see further developed within the art inside the book. Due credit is also given to the inkers and colorists of these books. I could only end this letter with a sincere hope that this new spirit of experimentation will apply to the subsequent issues of DAREDEVIL. It is, after all, the kind of thing DAREDEVIL readers expect to see. Keep it up.

Michael S. Shindler
3538 Countryside Lane
Camp Hill, PA 17011

The "growth" and "experimentation" aspects of this book have been a group effort of the entire creative team. We've really had a lot of fun doing DAREDEVIL this way, and we aren't about to stop now!

Dear Darling
DAREDEVIL Deities,

Okay, okay, so I was wrong. The book is fantastic!

I'll admit I went into it thinking I would hate it. No, scratch that. LOATHE IT! After all, I wasn't too keen on the creators; I don't mean to be harsh, but I could never seem to get through a D.G. Chichester story, and I remember thinking that Scott McDaniel's work on the "Hero Killers" was, well, boring.

This book is fantastic!

Plus, some of the plans that were brewing over in the DD think tank didn't sit too well with me. Resurrect Elektra? Change Matt's costume? Kill him!?! Oh man, I just couldn't watch. It would be too painful. I remember grunting in disgust, and trying my best to forget it.

Did I mention this book is fantastic?

It's just a fluke, I thought to myself. A cool costume a hero does not make. Take the X-Men. But I read more about the new DAREDEVIL... so one day I picked up chapters two and four. Hey, they were the only ones on sale!

The whole package is just plain--you know the song, sing along--FANTASTIC!

To my utter and pleasant surprise, I find a chichester story to be anything but boring. He does what only a select dozen or so can do: the man weaves a rich tapestry of subplots which create a thick, luxurious web. The highest compliment you could pay to a writer is that you have read their stories a couple of times in order to fully absorb it. Suffice to say, I've read it a dozen times and I'm still confused. And enjoying every minute of it!

Scott McDaniel!?! This is Scott McDaniel? Are you sure it's the same man? The art is fresh. It's vibrant. Most of all, it's cool! I've made it a practice now never to flip to the next page too soon. I always wonder what's around the bend--just to be blown away by another bunch of amazing visuals!

Most of all, the book is unique and stands out. The painted covers (they are painted, right?), the great twists (The "sai-killer" was Stone? I laughed out loud!), the fast-paced plots (I'm dying to know what happened between each chapter!), the great character appearances, the symbolism (black "demon" Elektra versus the white "pure" Elektra), and the most unique letters page I've ever seen in a comic book! Be daring!!!

I'm still wary of certain aspects of the "Fall From grace storyline, such as the choice of "big" guest stars, with the exception of Nick Fury's crew (you're obsessed with them, Dan, aren't you?), and I still harbor doubts about the "death" of Matt Murdock. No more Foggy, Karen, Ben? Isn't that kind of extreme? Like it's been said in the letter column, you can't replace Daredevil with just anybody. But after that touching final farewell to Matt and Daredevil triumphantly looking down on NYC, I still have hope...

Anthony Punt
(Address withheld by request)

Thanks for the nice words, Anthony. The covers, while striking, were not all painted, although we'll do one now and then (next issue, for example!). As for the "missing" text between issues, be sure to pick up (oh boy, here comes a blatant plug...) the "Fall From Grace" trade paperback later this year which will include fifteen all-new pages of art and story by the "Fall From Grace" creative team! This stuff will fill in those unsightly gaps for ya!

Lastly, Dan isn't the only one who's obsessed with Nick Fury and S.H.I.E.L.D., we all are! And Hydra too!! So obsessed, we're convinced that by the end of "Tree of Knowledge," you will be too!

P.S. Thanks for the praise concerning this very letters page! We're happy to be so different!!!

Later!

NEXT ISSUE: "Tree Of Knowledge" continues with Iron Fist...